

January 2005

Greetings:

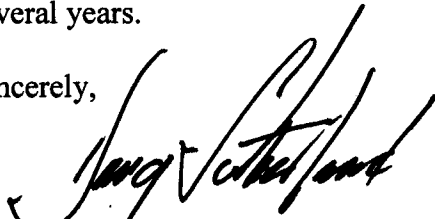
The Capitol State Forest is a unique landscape that provides revenue for our counties and schools, habitat for many species of wildlife, and an opportunity for diverse types of recreation. The Capitol State Forest Recreation Plan was prepared in order to provide guidance for department site managers now and into the future. I deeply appreciate all of the time and energy contributed by the stakeholders who worked on this plan.

Achieving a balance among competing activities and public access needs in such a popular destination is a management challenge that requires a high level of mutual coordination, cooperation, communication and commitment between DNR and the many recreation groups, nearby residents, and the general public. We simply can't do it without the help of those who care the most.

Completion of the Capitol State Forest Recreation and Public Access Plan is the culmination of several years of hard work by a citizens advisory group, local user groups, the public and the Department of Natural Resources. Many of the management recommendations within this plan are contingent upon appropriate funding. We believe that our strong partnerships with volunteers, stakeholder groups and others ensures that the sound recreation management of this forest will continue to evolve and be well supported.

I thank all of you who helped to work on this plan for your time and effort; and I encourage you to stay involved and work with Pacific Cascade Region staff to create a legacy of exemplary recreation stewardship, as this plan is carried out over the next several years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Sutherland", written over a horizontal line.

Doug Sutherland
Commissioner of Public Lands

